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TITLE: CDC HIV Prevention Indicators: How The Indicators Are Used To Characterize The HIV Epidemic In A Low-Incidence State, Minnesota (MN) 1993-97

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: To examine, as a part of a larger CDC project, the utility of a set of impact measures for monitoring HIV prevention trends in Minnesota.

METHODS: Data for the HIV incidence and prevention indicators were obtained from the Minnesota ' HIV/AIDS surveillance system, the Minnesota statutes, and several community-based organizations.

RESULTS: The tables present data from three domains that characterize the HIV epidemic and prevention efforts among injecting drug users (IDUs)-men who have sex with men are excluded:

Domain Indicator		Population	1993 n (rate/100,000)	1997 n (rate/100,000)	% rate change
Biological	IDU HIV incidence	MN Pop 15+	27(0.8)	12(0.4)	-50%
			n(rate/1000)	n(rate/1000)	
Service	Syringe Distribution	Pop 18-65	10,000(3.7)	75,053(28.2)	+760%

Domain Indicator		1993 status	1998 status
Sociopolitical	Needle Exchange	Illegal w/ exceptions	Illegal w/exceptions
Sociopolitical	Prescription Syringe Law	No law yet limitations exist	No law no limitations
Sociopolitical	Syringe/needle possession	Illegal w/exceptions	Legal w/limitations

CONCLUSIONS: Sociopolitical and service indicators reveal some progress towards an environment that supports prevention activities among IDUs. The utility of HIV incidence data is limited given the small numbers. The ability of HIV prevention indicators to provide a fuller picture of HIV prevention trends than HIV/AIDS surveillance data alone is especially relevant in a low-incident state.

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